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Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden places the Kluge Prize medal on George Chauncey while Kluge Center director Kevin Butterfield looks on.

## LGBTQ+ Historian Chauncey Accepts Kluge Prize

Chauncey's research shows that laws criminalizing gay life are more recent than many realize.

BY NEELY TUCKER

George Chauncey took to the stage in the Library's Great Hall last Wednesday night to formally accept the 2022 Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity. It was a black-tie event that had an emotional undercurrent that belied both the formal wear of the crowd and the formal nature of academic dinners.

Chauncey, the DeWitt Clinton professor of American history at Columbia University and director of the Columbia Research Institute on the Global History of Sexualities, is the first LGBTQ+ scholar to win the

Kluge's prestigious \$500,000 prize. After four decades helping pioneer the field in academia – and of testifying or filing briefs in court cases that helped establish gay rights – the awards ceremony had the feeling of a victory lap.

"With pride tonight, it is my honor to say that Dr. Chauncey is the first scholar – the first scholar, not the last – in LGBTQ+ studies to receive the Kluge Prize," Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, said before draping the Kluge medal around Chauncey's neck in front of an applauding crowd of Madison Council members, members of

KLUGE, CONTINUED ON 7

# NOTICES

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at [amcallister@loc.gov](mailto:amcallister@loc.gov).

Lynette Brown  
Joselynn Fountain

Cherkea Howery  
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## VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN GRANT REVIEW PANELS

Interested in getting involved with the Library's Mellon grant-funded [Of the People: Widening the Path](#) program? A new opportunity with the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative (CCDI) might be of interest. CCDI's grants offer educational and cultural institutions the opportunity to use technology to amplify collections and stories from communities of color around the U.S.

Following successful volunteer engagement in CCDI's initial round of grant reviews, the team is inviting staff members to volunteer on review panels for two new grant opportunities between October and November.

Staff volunteers must secure supervisory approval to commit 10 hours toward the effort. Between 18 and 36 volunteers will meet virtually and record their reviews using an online form. Grant awards will be announced in spring 2023.

To express your interest, send an email message to [ccdi@loc.gov](mailto:ccdi@loc.gov) with subject line "Panel Review Volunteer." Include (1) your name, job title, service unit, division, section and supervisor's name and email address; (2) your ranked preference for reviewing the libraries, archives and museums grant or the higher education grant; and (3) a few sentences about any relevant interests, experience or expertise you can bring to the selection process.

Questions? Write to [ccdi@loc.gov](mailto:ccdi@loc.gov).

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# GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Oct. 14 Gazette is Wednesday, Oct. 5.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).



# It's About (Danged) Time: Lizzo at the Library

The singer-songwriter played James Madison's rare crystal flute.

BY APRIL SLAYTON

It all started with a Tweet. Award-winning megastar and classically trained flutist Lizzo was in Washington, D.C., this week for a concert. So, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden tagged Lizzo in a tweet, highlighting the Library's extraordinary flute collection and inviting her to come visit and maybe even play some of them.

Lizzo's reply was an emphatic yes!

Her interest in the flute collection offered the Library an opportunity to highlight one of its more unexpected holdings – a [collection of almost 1,700 flutes](#) and other wind instruments donated to the Library by Dayton C. Miller in 1941.

One of the most unique of the flutes in this collection is a crystal flute made for President James Madison by Claude Laurent of Paris in honor of Madison's second inauguration.

Only about 185 Laurent glass flutes survive worldwide today, and the crystal flutes he crafted are even rarer. So, when Lizzo arrived at the Library determined to play that crystal flute, the Library's curators in the Music Division made careful plans to ensure that it could be played safely and without damage.

Hayden and staff members from the Library's Music Division, including division chief Susan Vita, curator Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford and house manager Solomon HaileSelassie, welcomed Lizzo at the Library's flute vault, where she saw many of the Library's rare and unique flutes, including a [walking stick flute](#), which now may be on Lizzo's wish list for the holidays this year.

While in the flute vault and again when she visited the Library's Great Hall and Main Reading Room,



Lizzo (left) plays a flute from the Library's collection on Monday with assistance from curator Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford.

Lizzo played a few notes on the crystal flute. She then treated Library employees and a few lucky researchers to a brief performance using a rare [plexiglass flute](#) from the Library's collection, filling these magnificent spaces with music as sublime as the art and architecture that surrounded it.

Lizzo's connection to the Library's flute collection offered an exciting opportunity for the Library to introduce a new audience to the important role the Library plays in preserving the country's rich cultural heritage. Beyond the books and service to Congress implied by our name, the Library's vision is that all Americans are connected to the Library.

So, when Lizzo asked if she could play the famous crystal flute at her Washington, D.C., concert Tuesday, the Library's collections, preservation and security teams made it possible to share this treasure with Lizzo's fans, inspiring them to learn more about the Library.

When items this valuable leave the Library, preservation and

security are the top priority. Curators ensure that the item can be transported in a customized protective container, and a Library curator and security officer are never more than a few steps away from such a priceless item.

Many of the Library's other priceless treasures remain in occasional use as was intended. Gertrude Clarke Whittall, for example, gave five stringed instruments by Antonio Stradivari to the Library on the condition that they should be played from time to time, although they cannot leave the Library's buildings except in case of emergency.

So, when Ward-Bamford walked Madison's crystal flute onto the concert stage this week and handed it to Lizzo, it was in keeping with the Library's traditional use of its rare instruments, and it was the result of careful work to protect this priceless object. It allowed an enraptured audience full of fans to discover how the Library stewards this remarkable treasure on behalf of the American people. ■

Shawn Miller

# Novelist Ian McEwan Kicks Off Fall Literary Season

The season will feature poetry, children's lit, romance and a Nobel laureate.

BY CLAY SMITH

To someone who's kept up with the reviews and coverage of Ian McEwan's new novel, "Lessons," the wonder is that anyone is reading the novel at all.

Don't get me wrong: The reviews have been positive and the interviews thoughtful and respectful. In fact, "Lessons" landed on the New York Times bestseller list last week, perhaps unsurprising for an author who's also written "Atonement" and "Saturday," both bestsellers, among publishing much other fiction during a storied literary career.

But there is one aspect of "Lessons" that critics keep harping on by calling its protagonist, Roland Baines, "passive." That adjective pops up frequently to describe Roland and who, after all, wants to spend 448 pages reading about some passive guy?

In the novel, McEwan follows Londoner Roland through a life marked by its relationship to major world news: the Suez Canal crisis, Chernobyl, the 9/11 attacks and COVID, to name a few.

About three years into their marriage, in 1986, Roland's wife Alissa leaves him suddenly, writing a short note that although she loves him, she wants a different life than the one she has with him and their new baby, Lawrence. Roland is left to raise Lawrence by himself. Alissa's desertion, and the fact that Roland is initially suspected of having killed Alissa, is the crisis that animates the beginning of "Lessons."

I interviewed McEwan in the Montpelier Room on Thursday for a Live at the Library event that kicked off Literary Initiatives' slate of fall author events. McEwan took issue



Shawn Miller

**Author Ian McEwan (left) speaks with Clay Smith, the Library's literary director, in the Montpelier Room on Sept. 22.**

at the event with critics who think Roland isn't actively engaged with life. Roland's wife leaves him, yes. That's something that happens to him, but what exactly is passive about a man who suddenly, unexpectedly raises a child on his own? Is there anything at all that's passive about being a single parent?

Instead, I suggested, there might be some intellectually lazy stereotyping going on: A man isn't supposed to be deserted by his wife, so Roland must be less than a man, right?

Although Literary Initiatives' first 2022 event after the National Book Festival dove into questions about how gender is depicted and reported, our fall lineup highlights other cultural considerations:

- We were honored to host poet and educator Nikki Giovanni in conversation with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden the evening of Sept. 26 for an event featuring Giovanni's lyrical new picture book, "A Library." The book's illustrator, Erin K. Robinson, also joined in.
- The new U.S. poet laureate, Ada Limón, opened her term last night by reading from her poetry in a

packed event.

- Children's writers R.L. Stine (the Goosebumps series) and Mary Pope Osborne (the Magic Tree House series) will be in conversation on Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. in the Coolidge Auditorium talking about their spooky new books and their legendary careers.
- We featured the six superstar young adult writers of the teen romance novel, "Blackout," at the book festival this year. All six are returning to the Coolidge the morning of Nov. 10 to talk with Hayden about the sequel, "Whiteout."
- Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa will talk about her new book, "How to Stand Up to a Dictator," with Roswell Encina at a date we will announce soon.
- And, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Jason Reynolds will close out his final term the morning of Dec. 13 in the Coolidge.

We hope you will join us for any or all of our remaining fall events. ■



## QUESTION & ANSWER



Courtesy of Dawn Rapoza

### Dawn Rapoza

*Dawn Rapoza is a librarian in the U.S. Serials and Government Documents Section of the U.S./Anglo Division, part of the Library's Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA).*

#### **Tell us about your background.**

My husband and I both grew up in Somerset, Massachusetts, a fairly small town situated nearly equidistant from Boston and Cape Cod.

I earned a bachelor's degree in music in applied cello from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. Then, I went on to complete master's degrees in music education (University of Akron) and library science (Kent State University).

Prior to arriving at the Library, I was an assistant director of public services at McAllen Public Library in McAllen, Texas. Living and working in a border community presented many opportunities for me to lead projects that cultivated mutually beneficial relationships between our three library locations and local organizations.

#### **What brought you to the Library?**

Before we moved to Texas, my husband and I lived in Fairfax, Vir-

ginia, and worked in Washington, D.C. Even before we left, we knew we wanted to come back. The area and surrounding states fit our lifestyle of exploring and learning.

In 2015, I successfully applied for an opening for an acquisitions specialist in the Copyright Acquisitions Division of the Copyright Office (now the Acquisitions and Deposits Division). I couldn't pass up the opportunity to move back to the DMV and work for the Library of Congress!

I have been in my current position as a librarian in the U.S. Serials and Government Documents Section since 2017. I wear many hats on a day-to-day basis. My work consists of acquiring and cataloging serials, electronic resources and U.S. government documents. I also manage all licensing review and negotiations for e-resources acquired by the U.S./Anglo Division in addition to serving on regular and ad hoc committees across the Library Collections and Services Group (LCSG).

#### **What are some of your standout projects?**

I was the MARS (Material Acquisition Request Service) product owner from October 2020 through December 2021. MARS is an online system that replaced our paper-based process for recommending materials for acquisition. When I joined MARS' lead team, it had just launched into production for the start of fiscal 2021. It was intense!

I spent most of my time conducting one-on-one troubleshooting with users across LCSG, leading test sessions for each new release of MARS, training users and creating documentation. I learned a lot about product development from my MARS teammates and had the opportunity to work with many colleagues in LCSG I otherwise may not have ever met.

Shortly after I joined my section, it merged with the former Government Documents Section of the U.S. Anglo/Division, leading to a backlog of over 20,000 items that needed to be selected and cataloged for the collections. As

a trainee, I contributed to clearing this backlog alongside colleagues before the end of the fiscal year (if memory serves me correctly). It was a very immersive introduction to the section's work.

Since 2018, I have served on ABA's core team for end-of-year acquisitions. The mission-critical project is coordinated across the Library to acquire important collection materials that are not acquired otherwise during the regular fiscal year. During this end-of-year period, funds are being reprogrammed and materials purchased on a shortened timeline. The ABA core team is on standby to facilitate actions required to secure orders and finalize agreements for these high-priority acquisitions.

#### **What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

My husband and I have found a shared love for traveling (mostly in the U.S. so far). Our most memorable trips are our recent cruise through the Inside Passage of Alaska; an RV adventure through Arizona, Colorado and Utah; and an exploration of the Northwest (thanks, American Library Association, for hosting midwinter meetings in Seattle).

My husband is a biker of the motorcycle variety, so we have combined our love for traveling with this hobby. Our favorite trips include trekking down the Bourbon Trail in Kentucky (although neither of us is a bourbon enthusiast) and cruising the Blue Ridge Parkway. The highlight of that trip was conquering the Tail of the Dragon, a rite of passage for many bikers. It has 318 curves in just 11 miles.

During our travels, we tour as many factories and historical sites as we can.

#### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

I lived in Nashville for a time. Once while I was there, a colleague called me to play cello for a show with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Forty minutes later, I was backstage at the arena, ready to perform. When in Nashville ... ■

## Congressional Workplace Survey Coming

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) is conducting the second-ever survey of the workplace climate in the legislative branch, and links to participate in the Congressional Climate Survey will be sent to the inboxes of Library staff on Oct. 3.

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act directs the OCWR to conduct a comprehensive survey of the workplace climate of the legislative branch. This survey is a component of Congress' commitment to ensuring legislative branch employees enjoy a safe and productive workplace culture. Responses to this survey will provide valuable feedback to Congress on the workplace environment.

The survey is designed to gauge the workplace satisfaction of Library employees. It is voluntary, anonymous and confidential. It should take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

Library staff members will receive a unique email link to the survey. This link should not be shared with anyone. This login method ensures anonymity and confidentiality while protecting the validity of the survey results. Periodic reminder emails will be sent with access information until the survey closes on Nov. 18. Because participation is anonymous, all employees will continue to receive reminders even after participants have submitted their responses.

Survey questions cover a wide range of topics, including sexual harassment, discrimination, personal demographics and work experiences. Some employees may find some of these questions difficult to consider as a result of their experiences, but ensuring

that the voices of those who have experienced sexual harassment and discrimination are heard in this survey is critically important.

Fully understanding the workplace climate requires collecting the experiences of different groups of employees at the Library and comparing data across populations. This information will help determine if one demographic group is experiencing a particular issue differently than others.

The survey results will assist Congress in identifying critical practices in support of its continued commitment to a safer, more productive work culture.

Individual survey responses will not be shared with Congress and, once the data is compiled, individual survey responses will be destroyed.

The survey will not record personally identifiable information, such as email addresses, names or IP addresses. It will collect information about participants' demographic background and experiences. The information will be reported in groups of at least 30, ensuring that no single employee's answers can be personally identifiable. All login information will be assigned randomly, and data will be stored according to best industry practices.

A version of the survey has already been successfully administered to approximately 30,000 legislative branch staff, including members of Congress and congressional staff, paid and unpaid interns, detailees and fellows.

Questions? See the [frequently asked questions document](#) at [ocwr.gov](http://ocwr.gov), call OCWR at (202) 724-9250 or send an email to [climatesurvey@ocwr.gov](mailto:climatesurvey@ocwr.gov). ■

## 06 THURSDAY

**Display:** Brazilian bicentennial, including items from the Law Library, the Latin American, Caribbean and European Division and elsewhere. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Great Hall. Contact: 7-8000.

**Webinar:** "Orientation to Legal Research: U.S. Federal Statutes." 11 a.m., [online](#). Contact: [kgoles@loc.gov](mailto:kgoles@loc.gov)

**Live at the Library:** 5 to 8:30 p.m., Great Hall. [Tickets required](#). Contact: 7-8000.

**Display:** Giant Bible of Mainz. 5 to 7 p.m., Great Hall. [Tickets required](#). Contact: 7-8000.

Request ADA accommodations for events five business days in advance at 7-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov).

See [www.loc.gov/events](http://www.loc.gov/events)

## GET YOUR FLU SHOT

The Health Services Division (HSD) is offering flu shots by appointment.

Sign up [here](#).

### Oct. 3

9 a.m. to noon  
**Jefferson Building**  
Drive through only.

### Oct. 4-7

Tuesday-Thursday: 9 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to noon

**Madison Hall, Madison Building**

Questions? Contact HSD at [hso@loc.gov](mailto:hso@loc.gov).

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

To reach the U.S. Capitol Police for any emergency, call 911 from any Library landline or (202) 707-7111 from any mobile phone. (Dialing 911 from a mobile phone connects the caller with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.)

To reach the Capitol Police for nonemergencies, call 7-1000 from any Library landline or (202) 707-1000 from any mobile phone.

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at**  
**[www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/)**

## KLUGE, CONTINUED FROM 1

Congress and invited guests. “The Library of Congress’ mission is to connect and engage with all Americans, and that means telling the rich, diverse stories of all citizens of this country.”

Chauncey, acknowledging the award by joking that he was “never going to win an Olympic medal,” thanked friends, family and colleagues, but most emotionally his spouse, Ronald Gregg. A film historian and director of the master’s program in film and media studies at Columbia, Gregg met Chauncey in Chicago three decades ago. They have been together for 28 years and married for eight – the latter due in no small part to Chauncey’s key work on the Supreme Court cases that legalized gay marriage. Without Gregg, Chauncey said, “I could barely imagine my life.”

“I gratefully accept this prize not just for myself but on behalf of a field of study and a group of courageous scholars whose work on the LGBTQ past was marginalized for far too long,” he said in his 15-minute acceptance speech. “To have the Library of Congress recognize the scholarly quality and significance of this field is profoundly important.”

Chauncey’s research over the decades has shown that laws criminalizing homosexuality are not millennia-old traditions of western society, but mostly creations of midcentury American conservative politics, beginning in the Depression and continuing for the next half century.

“Chauncey’s work gives us that story that we need to tell about ourselves so that we can be our better selves,” said Martha S. Jones, a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, in an interview before the ceremony.

Chauncey’s landmark 1994 book, “Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890–1940,” documented that in the first three decades of the 20th century, gay

life in many American cities was often relatively open and tolerated, reaching a peak in the Jazz Age 1920s. During Prohibition, speakeasies serving illegal liquor became a popular attraction for millions of otherwise law-abiding citizens, creating a realm where social rules were far more relaxed.

In this environment, openly gay, cross-dressing acts became popular (particularly in New York), making camp humor standard fare in many nightspots. Singers such as Gladys Bentley, who performed wearing a tuxedo, and Gene Malin, who performed camp novelty songs, were headliners. The “pansy” craze swept the East Coast, drawing thousands of gay and straight partygoers of all races and economic backgrounds to drag balls.

At the same time, Chauncey wrote, the societal understanding of what made a man “gay” was profoundly different than today for a number of reasons. For one, the growth of cities brought millions of people, many of them single young men, into urban environments and away from the strictures of family and small-town life.

In these cities, societal norms of the era also prohibited women from being in many workplaces and almost all saloons (unless they were prostitutes) or even to be unaccompanied in public. In these overwhelmingly male environments, men who sometimes or even frequently had sex with other men were not considered to be homosexual unless they were openly effete, known at the time as “pansies” or “faeries.”

In “Gay New York,” Chauncey documented this now-forgotten world, showing that particularly among working-class men, there was far more acceptance of such relationships, particularly if they were private.

Only a reactionary wave of laws that began in the austerity of the Depression created an entire class of people as “gay” and then discriminated against them in almost every facet of society. This created

the realm of the gay “closet.”

Chauncey, born in the 1950s, grew up as the son of a Presbyterian minister in the Deep South who campaigned for civil rights. He learned early that stands for social justice were often unpopular and greatly discouraged, sometimes with violence.

He received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Yale University. After a difficult time finding work as a young historian specializing in what was then considered to be a small and unimportant field, he landed a teaching position at the University of Chicago from 1991 through 2006. He returned to Yale as the Samuel Knight professor of history and American studies from 2006 to 2017. He then moved to Columbia.

In court, he’s been involved in 30 cases that targeted gay rights, testifying or filing amicus briefs about his research. Four of those cases went to the U.S. Supreme Court, including landmark cases *Lawrence v. Texas* in 2003, which overturned the nation’s remaining sodomy laws; and the marriage equality cases, *United States v. Windsor* in 2013 and *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015.

Chauncey joins a prestigious group of Kluge winners that includes the most recent honoree, Danielle Allen, a political theorist at Harvard University; Jürgen Habermas, the German philosopher; Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a former president of Brazil; Drew Gilpin Faust, a Harvard historian; and John Hope Franklin, the veteran scholar of African American history. ■

## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form [here](#) or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.